

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

What is claimed is:

Claim 1-17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A fuel container comprising;  
a plastic container body consisting of two sections, each section having wall portions, said wall portions having inner and outer wall surfaces, said inner wall surface of one section joined to said outer wall surface of the other section by first and second welded seams, wherein said first and second welded seams are separated by a duct, said duct extending in the longitudinal direction of said wall portions, and

means for filling the duct with air and venting same of air,  
wherein said two sections comprise first and second shell portions and wherein said shell portions are obtained from a molded container.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 18 wherein said means of filling the duct includes respective connections.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 19 wherein the connections are provided with valves.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 18 which is of a multi-layer structure having at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons, which is completely embedded in the container body wall.

Claim 22-23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 18 and further including a filter element operatively associated with said duct for filtered venting thereof.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 24 wherein said filter element is an activated carbon filter.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 18 and further including means for pressure filling said duct with air.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) A container as set forth in claim 18 comprising a multi-layer preform, having a wall including at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) A fuel container of plastic material comprising;  
a container body having first and second sections, each section having wall portions containing inner and outer wall surfaces, said first section having a first stepped wall portion including an end surface and said second section having a second stepped wall portion including an end surface, said stepped wall portions being joined by first and second welded seams, wherein said first seam is formed by welding said end surface of said first stepped wall portion to the inner surface of the second section and wherein said second seam is formed by welding said end surface of said second stepped wall portion to the outer surface of said first section, wherein said first and second welded seams are separated by a duct, said duct extending in the longitudinal direction of said wall portions, and  
means for filling the duct with air and venting same of air.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 wherein said wall portions of said first and second section are separated by spacers.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 29 wherein said spacers are arranged in rows which extend in the longitudinal direction of said wall portions.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 wherein said means of filling the duct includes respective connections.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 31 wherein the connections are provided with valves.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 which is of a multi-layer structure having at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons, which is completely embedded in the container body wall.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 wherein said two sections are produced from first and second shell portions.

Claim 35. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 34 wherein the shell portions are obtained by cutting open a blow-molded container.

Claim 36. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 and further including a filter element operatively associated with said duct for filtered venting thereof.

Claim 37. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 36 wherein said filter element is an activated carbon filter.

Claim 38. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 and further including means for pressure filling said duct with air.

Claim 39. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 28 which was produced by extrusion blow molding of a multi-layer preform, having a wall in which at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons is embedded.

Claim 40. (Withdrawn) A fuel container of plastic material comprising:  
a container body having inner and outer wall surfaces wherein said container body has at least one opening and a corresponding cover and wherein said corresponding cover overlies said at least one opening and is joined to one of said inner or said outer wall surfaces by first and second welded seams, wherein said first and second welded seams are separated by a duct, said duct extending in a longitudinal direction of said welded seams, and means for filling the duct with air and venting same of air.

Claim 41. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 40 wherein said means of filling the duct includes respective connections.

Claim 42. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 41 wherein the connections are provided with valves.

Claim 43. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 40 which is of a multi-layer structure having at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons, which is completely embedded in the container body wall.

Claim 44. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 40 and further including a filter element operatively associated with said duct for filtered venting thereof.

Claim 45. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 44 wherein said filter element is an activated carbon filter.

Claim 46. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 40 and further including means for pressure filling said duct with air.

Claim 47. (Withdrawn) A container as set forth in claim 40 which was produced by extrusion blow molding of a multi-layer preform, having a wall in which at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons is embedded.

Claim 48. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a duct in the flange of a molded article, comprising the steps of:

- providing a mold for forming said article, said mold including at least first and second mold portions, said mold portions further including squeeze edges;

- providing a molten parison of plastic between said first and second mold portions;

- providing one or more blowing needles;

- closing said first and second mold portions around said parison to align said squeeze edges;

- inflating said parison within said closed mold portions, wherein said squeeze edges include a recess and said one or more blowing needles extend into said recess; and

- inflating said parison at said squeeze edge location to form said duct.

Claim 49. (Withdrawn) The method as set forth in claim 48 wherein the parison is of a multi-layer structure having at least one barrier layer for hydrocarbons, which is completely embedded in the container body wall.